

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 OES-02 A-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 /038 W

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R 031027Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1757

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS REWARDS SYSTEM

REF: DEPTTEL 094977

1. AMBASSADOR LUNCHEd WITH POLICE GENERAL POW SARASIN MAY 3 TO DISCUSS THE THAI REWARD SYSTEM FOR NARCOTICS SEIZURES. AMBASSADOR OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT WE HAD ONLY RECENTLY BECOME AWARE OF THE DISLOCATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED BY THE WASHINGTON DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHING NEW CRITERIA FOR THE GRANTING OF AWARDS IN CONNECTION WITH NARCOTICS SEIZURES, ARRESTS OF TRAFFICKERS, DESTRUCTION OF HEROIN REFINERIES AND THE GENERATION OF INTELLIGENCE. GENERAL POW ADMITTED THAT THE BORDER PATROL POLICE AS WELL AS OTHER ELEMENTS OF THAI NATIONAL POLICE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION HAD BEEN TROWN OFF BALANCE BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW CRITERIA WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. PROBLEM CREATED OF COURSE HAD BEEN ONE OF UNCERTAINTY. WHEREAS THAI OFFICIALS AS WELL AS INFORMANTS IN THE PAST HAD BEEN ABLE TO COUNT ON A REWARD SCHEDULE SET AT KNOWN AMOUNTS, THE NEW CRITERIA HAD CAUSED THEM TO WONDER JUST HOW MUCH OF A REWARD THEY MIGHT BE ENTITLED TO IN CONNECTION WITH A GIVEN SEIZURE OR

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ARREST.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ADMITTED TO GENERAL POW THAT HE HAD BECOME AWARE OF THIS CHANGE IN SCHEDULE AND CRITERIA ONLY AFTER THEIR ADOPTION. HOWEVER, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER NOT ONLY WITH THE LOCAL DEA OFFICE BUT ALSO WITH PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT DOCTOR PETER BOURNE AND

MS. MATHEA FALCO, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, DURING THEIR RECENT VISIT. ALL APPEARED TO AGREE THAT NEW CRITERIA SHOULD BE ADOPTED. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD GENERAL POW THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT WHATEVER AWARD SYSTEM WAS ADOPTED THAT THE US NOT BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF PAYING REWARDS TO THAI OFFICIALS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR PROPER DUTIES IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED ITS OWN REWARD SYSTEM WHICH, ALTHOUGH GENEROUS, REQUIRED A FAIRLY LONG EXAMINATION PERIOD AND THE COMPLETION OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICER OR INFORMANT WAS PAID HIS REWARD.

3. ON THE BASIS OF CONVERSATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO THE AMBASSADOR FELT THAT THERE WAS THE HOPE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PAYING BOUNTIES TO THAI OFFICIALS AND POLICE OFFICERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE SEIZURE OF NARCOTICS AND THE ARREST OF TRAFFICKERS IF THERE WAS A REASONABLE ASSUMPTION THAT THE NARCOTICS IN QUESTION WERE DESTINED FOR THE U.S. HE THEN PRODUCED A NEW DRAFT SCHEDULE OF SUCH BONUSES WHICH MIGHT BE ADOPTED. (TEST SEPTEL)

4. POW WAS VERY RESPONSIVE TO THE IDEA OF A US BONUS SCHEME AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE THAI AWARDS SYSTEM. HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AS WELL AS THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND WOULD CERTAINLY CONVEY TO THAI OFFICIALS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US PERCEIVED THE WAR ON THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRADE AS A TRULY MULTI NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFORT.

5. EMBASSY WILL BE SUBMITTING OUTLINE FOR THE PROPOSED PILOT BONUS SCHEME WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE FUNDS REQUIRED COULD AMOUNT TO SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$350,000 PER YEAR, ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO 1/3 OF THE COST OF A HELICOPTER WITH ACCOMPANYING SPARE PARTS. IF, AS WE HOPE, THIS BONUS SYSTEM DOES FURNISH AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE FOR THAI OFFICIALS TO SURPASS THEIR SEIZURES AND ARREST RECORDS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS, IT WOULD BE MONEY WELL SPENT AND IT COULD EASILY LEAD TO A FURTHER, SIGNIFICANT DEPRESSION OF THE DRUG TRADE OUT OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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SAS ID: 2323414
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Subject: NARCOTICS REWARDS SYSTEM
TAGS: SNAR, PORS, TH, US
To: STATE
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